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MOUNTAIN-PLAINS INFORMATION OFFICE: Kansas City, Mo.

Technical information: (816) 285-7000 BLSInfoKansasCity@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/mountain-plains

Media contact: (816) 285-7000

Consumer Price Index, St. Louis – February 2019

Area prices rose 0.8 percent over the two months; up 0.7 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for St. Louis rose 0.8 percent over the two months ended in February 2019, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Stanley W. Suchman noted that the increase was broad based with higher prices for shelter leading the advance. Food prices rose 1.0 percent and energy costs were up 0.8 percent. The index for all items less food and energy advanced 0.8 percent over the two-month period. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U advanced 0.7 percent. Prices for food increased 2.2 percent, but costs for energy were 10.5 percent lower. The index for all items less food and energy rose 1.5 percent over the year. (See [table 1.](#))

Food

Food prices increased 1.0 percent over the two months ended in February largely reflecting a 1.3-percent increase in prices for food at home. Prices for food away from home advanced 0.6 percent over the two months.

Over the year, the food index rose 2.2 percent as prices for food away from home increased 3.4 percent and prices for food at home rose 1.2 percent.

Energy

The energy index rose 0.8 percent over the two-month period largely due to a 3.2-percent increase in prices for gasoline. Prices for electricity and utility (piped) gas service declined 1.6 percent and 1.3 percent, respectively, and moderated the advance in energy costs.

Over the year, the energy index declined 10.5 percent reflecting lower prices for gasoline (-13.1 percent), utility (piped) gas service (-12.0 percent), and electricity (-5.7 percent).

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy advanced 0.8 percent during the January-February period. Shelter costs increased 0.7 percent and prices for medical care rose 1.1 percent. Lower prices for education and communication (-1.3 percent) helped to offset the advance.

From February 2018 to February 2019, the index for all items less food and energy increased 1.5 percent largely attributable to higher prices for shelter (4.1 percent).

The Consumer Price Index for March 2019 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, April 10, 2019.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 93 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 29 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 75 urban areas across the country from about 5,000 housing units and approximately 22,000 retail establishments—department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch17.pdf.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The St. Louis, MO-IL, area covered in this release includes Bond, Calhoun, Clinton, Jersey, Macoupin, Madison, Monroe, and St. Clair counties in Illinois; and Franklin, Jefferson, Lincoln, St. Charles, St. Louis, and Warren counties and St. Louis City in Missouri.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, St. Louis, MO-IL (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from -		
	Dec. 2018	Jan. 2019	Feb. 2019	Feb. 2018	Dec. 2018	Jan. 2019
All items	226.689	-	228.528	0.7	0.8	-
All items (1967 = 100)	673.303	-	678.765			
Food and beverages	254.591	-	256.570	1.5	0.8	-
Food	254.445	-	256.950	2.2	1.0	-
Food at home	229.902	231.396	232.955	1.2	1.3	0.7
Cereals and bakery products	216.040	-	214.444	-1.6	-0.7	-
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	244.131	-	247.932	1.1	1.6	-
Dairy and related products	162.515	-	146.322	-6.6	-10.0	-
Fruits and vegetables	344.332	-	370.837	7.4	7.7	-
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1)	170.123	-	175.345	-2.0	3.1	-
Other food at home	225.299	-	227.014	2.0	0.8	-
Food away from home	295.056	-	296.787	3.4	0.6	-
Alcoholic beverages	228.263	-	224.270	-6.3	-1.7	-
Housing	221.793	-	223.254	1.9	0.7	-
Shelter	262.843	264.176	264.743	4.1	0.7	0.2
Rent of primary residence	241.915	242.773	243.822	3.8	0.8	0.4
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(2)	274.883	277.800	277.456	3.9	0.9	-0.1
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(2)	274.883	277.800	277.456	3.9	0.9	-0.1
Fuels and utilities	209.437	-	207.003	-3.8	-1.2	-
Household energy	179.890	181.275	177.312	-7.8	-1.4	-2.2
Energy services	181.602	183.079	178.877	-8.0	-1.5	-2.3
Electricity	177.646	180.960	174.763	-5.7	-1.6	-3.4
Utility (piped) gas service	155.772	153.926	153.797	-12.0	-1.3	-0.1
Household furnishings and operations	119.008	-	121.430	-3.6	2.0	-
Apparel	156.278	-	161.344	3.0	3.2	-
Transportation	180.579	-	182.638	-3.3	1.1	-
Private transportation	182.407	-	183.448	-3.1	0.6	-
New and used motor vehicles(3)	91.726	-	92.036	-0.1	0.3	-
New vehicles(1)	206.170	-	207.124	1.3	0.5	-
Used cars and trucks(1)	294.746	-	297.778	0.5	1.0	-
Motor fuel	192.610	183.272	198.291	-12.9	2.9	8.2
Gasoline (all types)	188.313	179.135	194.311	-13.1	3.2	8.5
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4)	180.286	171.244	185.888	-13.6	3.1	8.6
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5)	230.257	220.280	240.919	-8.9	4.6	9.4
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4)	202.367	195.395	208.583	-10.3	3.1	6.7
Motor vehicle insurance(1)	586.958	-	578.471	0.9	-1.4	-
Medical care	454.688	-	459.675	2.1	1.1	-
Recreation(3)	116.160	-	117.137	-3.6	0.8	-
Education and communication(3)	134.991	-	133.223	0.3	-1.3	-
Tuition, other school fees, and childcare(1) ...	1,220.553	-	1,220.553	1.4	0.0	-
Other goods and services	330.718	-	336.586	4.5	1.8	-
Commodity and service group						
Commodities	182.932	-	185.385	-1.8	1.3	-
Commodities less food and beverages	147.753	-	150.266	-3.7	1.7	-
Nondurables less food and beverages	199.782	-	204.100	-4.6	2.2	-
Durables	100.230	-	101.348	-2.5	1.1	-
Services	271.723	-	272.988	2.3	0.5	-
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less shelter	216.058	-	217.887	-0.7	0.8	-
All items less medical care	215.272	-	216.945	0.5	0.8	-
Commodities less food	151.250	-	153.581	-3.8	1.5	-

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, St. Louis, MO-IL (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from -		
	Dec. 2018	Jan. 2019	Feb. 2019	Feb. 2018	Dec. 2018	Jan. 2019
Nondurables	227.505	-	230.743	-1.5	1.4	-
Nondurables less food.....	202.892	-	206.644	-4.8	1.8	-
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	288.347	-	289.008	0.7	0.2	-
Services less medical care services.....	255.177	-	256.051	2.2	0.3	-
Energy	185.404	181.488	186.915	-10.5	0.8	3.0
All items less energy	233.679	-	235.573	1.6	0.8	-
All items less food and energy	230.276	-	232.071	1.5	0.8	-

Footnotes

(1) Indexes on an March 1978=100 base.

(2) Indexes on a November 1982=100 base.

(3) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

(4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(5) Index on a December 1993=100.

- Data not available.